

which is in the form of extrudates or pellets, said siliceous support having an average pore radius of 30 to 100 Å.

Please cancel claims 7, 12, 13, and 15.

REMARKS

Re-examination of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Support for the above amendments can be found in the specification at page 3, line 7, in each of the Examples, and in original Claim 15. For the Examiner's consideration, it is noted that "tungstosilicic acid" is equivalent in this technology to "silicotungstic acid." With respect to the pore radius of the silica support, page 4, lines 2 and 3 provide support for this amendment.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicants have canceled Claim 7 rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 1-3, 12-15, 17-23, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue, JP 5-170698 or JP 5-255185. In addition, claims 1-4 and 12-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sano (EP 562,139). Applicants respectfully traverse.

JP5-170698 does not mention any support and is limited to cesium, ruthenium, or thallium, ammonium or potassium salts of heteropolyacids. The use of free heteropolyacids (as now claimed) is not disclosed nor is the addition of water to the reaction mixture. In addition, silicotungstic acid or even salts thereof--are not disclosed.

JP 5-255185 is limited to the use of a metal phosphotungstate catalyst prepared by substituting the heteropolyacid with a cesium cation and further with one or